

# Minutes of...Children's Network Policy Council

## Details

Date: July 22, 2009

Time: noon

Place: County Government Center, 385 N. Arrowhead Ave., 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Citrus Room, San Bernardino.

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## Attendees

- Charles Adams, Community Action Partnership
  - Regina Coleman, County Counsel
  - Steven Couchot, TAD Administration
  - Amy Cousineau, Children's Network
  - Michael Delgado, 4<sup>th</sup> District BOS
  - Ron Griffin, Preschool Services Department
  - Linda Haugan, Human Services Administration
  - Margaret Hill, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools
  - Veronica Kelley, DBH [vkelly@dbh.sbcounty.gov](mailto:vkelly@dbh.sbcounty.gov) (909) 421-4641
  - Richard Louis, DBH [rlouis@dbh.sbcounty.gov](mailto:rlouis@dbh.sbcounty.gov) (909) 382-3081
  - Chairman Ovitt, Fourth District Board of Supervisors
  - Karen Scott, First 5 San Bernardino
  - Sue Taylor, Children's Network
  - Kathy Turnbull, Children's Network
  - Beatriz Valdez, Grants Coordinator – CAO
  - Trinity Wallace-Ellis, C.A.S.A. [trinity@childadvocatesofsbcounty.gov](mailto:trinity@childadvocatesofsbcounty.gov)
  - Greg Zerovnik, SB County Library Administration
  - Tracy Reece, Probation Department
  - Jeff Wagner, Children and Family Services
  - Debi Faris, Garden of Angels
  - Jaynie Boren, San Antonio Community Hospital
  - Naseem Farooqi, Board of Supervisors Fourth District
  - Tammy Williams, Children's Network
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## Welcome and Introductions

Linda Haugan welcomed everyone and self-introductions were made. **A motion was made to approve the agenda and minutes as submitted by Chairman Gary Ovitt and seconded by Ron Griffin.**

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**Approval Item:  
Sponsorship of  
CASA Event**

- Trinity Wallace–Ellis shared some flyers and brochures on CASA (Court Appointed Child Advocates).
  - Trinity requested that Policy Council sponsor the Munchin at the Mansion event on October 7<sup>th</sup> at the Edwards Mansion in Redlands at 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. There will be several restaurants participating, along with a raffle and auction.
  - The cost is \$65 a piece. **A motion was made by Ron Griffin and seconded by Margaret Hill to approve the \$5,000 Platinum Sponsorship for the Munchin at the Mansion Event on October 7<sup>th</sup>.**
  - They have 140 children on a waiting list now and are currently serving 84 children.
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**Children's  
Network  
Report**

- The Children's Network Annual conference is on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> at the Ontario Convention Center. Conference Registration forms is available now.
- Through a partnership between; Children's Network, Children's Fund, Children and Family Services, Probation, CSUSB, University of Redlands, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, Juvenile Dependency Court, DBH – TAY, etc. a College Fair is being held for High School Juniors and Seniors, and aftercare youth on August 8<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the University of Redlands, Orton Center. Other colleges will be on campus, there will tours of the campus, financial aid assistance, transcript evaluation, etc.
- There will be a Train the Trainers event on August 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The training will be held at the ITT Technical Institute, 670 E. Carnegie Drive, San Bernardino. The Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition of San Diego will be facilitating the training sessions. The purpose of the training is to get key stakeholders and the community trained and made aware of how to work with these young children who have become victims of sexual abuse trafficking.
- Another project Children's Network is involved with is the NFP (Nurse Family Partnership). This program is for first-time low income mothers. Some of the funding will be coming from First 5 San Bernardino and DBH – PEI (Department of Behavioral Health – Prevention Early Intervention program) along with some funding from the Preschool/Head start Services Department. Amy has been asked to sit on the State Advisory Council, and agreed to keep Policy Council members informed.
- Kathy Turnbull mentioned that Children's Network will be convening the Mentoring Collaborative starting on July 28<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m., at Children's Network 825 E. Hospitality Lane, Conference Room B/C, San Bernardino. Some partners to be involved with this project will be: DBH, CFS, Probation, etc.
- One other activity Children's Network has been involved with is collaborating with CFS, First 5 San Bernardino, and Inland Empire United Way 2-1-1 to get out information about CAHL (Child Abuse Hotline).

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**Children's  
Fund Report**

Rebecca Stafford had a family emergency, so she will report next month.

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**Safe Surrender Project**

Amy Cousineau introduced the Safe Surrender Task Force; Margaret Hill of San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, Karen Scott, First 5 San Bernardino, Debi Faris, Garden of Angels, and Jaynie Boren, San Antonio Community Hospital.

- One year ago Allan Rawland, Director of Behavioral Health asked Policy Council what was being done to prevent abandonment of newborns. Out of that conversation a task force was formed.
- This task force applied for the Doris Duke grant out of North Carolina University Prevent Institute and was awarded a training opportunity.
- Fifteen teams were selected nationwide and had two trips to Chapel Hill, North Carolina to develop their presentation and materials.
- Debi Faris is the expert in the Safe Surrender Baby law as she was instrumental in creating it.
- Jaynie Boren mentioned that several staff members at the hospital were very concerned about babies being left to near death, so they created an education campaign starting with posters and a DVD.
- They have found that the babies being abandoned were not from a certain race or socio economic status or age group.
- Everyone was referred to a handout entitled: Appendix A: Prevent Team Project Plan (6 months) from December, '08.
- The main focus of this team has been on; 1. Public Awareness Campaign, 2. Develop a Speakers Bureau, and the linkage between SS (Safe Surrender) Babies to 2-1-1.
- In San Bernardino County the current Safe Surrender locations are Fire Departments and local hospitals.
- Curriculum has been developed with simple resources to be shared with nurses and teachers in the public schools so that students can be educated. This work has also been linked with the CDC (Centers for Disease Control). Students are primarily educated on topics like this one through their Physical Education and Health Education classes.
- Debi mentioned it is very important to keep and sustain the education outreach for this project.
- There are 86 babies buried at the Garden of Angels. To date there has been 300 babies safely surrendered in California.
- There are safely surrender laws across the nation. The work on this project was first started in Texas.

- Karen Scott mentioned that this campaign fits perfectly with the mission of First 5 San Bernardino. They are coordinating a media campaign for sustainability and are tracking calls received through billboards, calls to 2-1-1, etc.
- Margaret spoke about a Sunday they recently met in Fontana and walked the neighborhoods where the second baby had been abandoned. The neighbors they talked to were very receptive and just wanted to know how they could help.
- The plans will be for this small task force to expand to include other stakeholders in the community and come back to report to the Policy Council members in July, 2010.
- Chairman Ovitt asked for clarification of the actual Safe Surrender spots; (fire stations and hospitals). He encouraged the team to come and do a presentation before the Board of Supervisors.
- Children's Network will be collaborating a Speakers Bureau on this topic as well.
- Jeff Wagner mentioned that eighteen of the thirty-three babies that had been surrendered in San Bernardino County were from the high desert.
- Linda Haugan congratulated the team on their outstanding work and looks forward to an update to Policy Council members in six months.

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**Other**

- Greg Zerovnik announced that the grand opening for the Phelan Library will be on August 22<sup>nd</sup> and is located at 9898 Clovis Road.
  - Charles Adams announced that CAP (Community Action Partnership) will be having their annual Gala Banquet on September 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at the Cal State University San Bernardino, Santos Manuel Student Union Event Center.
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**Public  
Comments**

None.

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**Next Meeting**

August 26, 2009 at noon, at County Government Center, 385 N. Arrowhead Ave., 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Citrus Room, San Bernardino.

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